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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/540,548

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Kris Vandermeulen

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EXAMINER

MARINI, MATTHEW G

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2854

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/540,548	<b>Applicant(s)</b> VANDERMEULEN ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> MATTHEW G. MARINI	<b>Art Unit</b> 2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 April 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 21-24 and 40-52 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 25-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 June 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/24/05, 10/27/05, 7/20/07, 3/30/09</u>                       | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |



## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

Applicant's election with traverse of Group IV in the reply filed on 4/17/09 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that restriction requirement between Group III and Group IV is improper. This is not found persuasive because the examiner believes that the method of Group III can be performed by the user and not by the structure defined in Group IV, therefore the restriction is proper.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claims 21-24 and 40-52 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 4/17/09.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 25, 27, 29, 31, 32, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hilton et al. (EP 0 903 237).

With respect to claim 25, Hilton et al teaches in Fig. 1 a printing apparatus using a consumable, 12, associated with an identifier, 25, the apparatus comprising: a printer

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mechanism, 14, for printing an image onto an image receiving substrate; a reader, 27, for reading the identifier, 25; a storage medium, 43, for holding a list of any previously used identifiers associated with empty consumables, Col 9 lines 41-45; and a processor, 42, arranged to compare the identifier, 25, read by the reader, 27, with the list of any previously used identifiers associated with empty consumables, i.e. when the current count of sheets becomes zero, the processor generates an invalid indication, i.e. “empty cartridge” if there is a match, Col. 11 lines 5-28.

With respect to claim 27, Hilton et al teaches in Fig. 1 a printing apparatus wherein the storage medium, 43, is capable of holding a table comprising a plurality of identifier fields associated with respective status fields regarding the remaining sheet counts left in the specific ink cartridges.

With respect to claim 29, Hilton et al teaches in Fig. 1 a printing apparatus wherein the processor, 42, is capable of loading into one of said identifier fields an identifier read by the reader, 27, which does not match a previously used identifier as to updated the sheet count.

With respect to claim 31, Hilton et al teaches in Fig. 1 a printing apparatus further comprising a usage monitor for monitoring the usage of the consumable, Col. 8 lines 33-48.

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With respect to claim 32, Hilton et al teaches in Fig. 1 a printing apparatus wherein the processor, 42, is capable of updating the status field to indicate the amount of consumable, i.e. ink, remaining based on the usage monitored by the usage monitor, Col. 8 lines 33-48.

With respect to claim 36, Hilton et al teaches in Fig. 1 a printer mechanism, 14, for printing an image onto an image receiving substrate; a reader, 27, for reading the identifier, 25; a storage medium, 43, for holding a list of any previously used identifiers associated with empty consumables, Col 9 lines 41-45; and a processor, 42, arranged to compare the identifier, 25, read by the reader, 27, with the list of any previously used identifiers associated with empty consumables, i.e. when the current count of sheets becomes zero, the processor generates an invalid indication, i.e. "empty cartridge" if there is a match, Col. 11 lines 5-28.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 26, 28, 30, 33-35, and 37-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hilton et al. (EP 0 903 237) in view of Klinefelter et al. (WO 00/43932).

With respect to claims 26, Hilton et al. teaches all that is claimed in the above rejection of claim 25, but teaches contact pads as the reader rather than an RF coil.

Klinefelter et al. teaches in Fig. 2 a similar printing apparatus where an RF coil, 42, is used to read an identifier off a consumable, i.e. ribbon cassette, 14.

Because both Hilton et al. and Klinefelter et al. teach structure used for reading an identifier off a consumable, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to substitute the contact pads of Hilton et al. with the RF coil of Klinefelter et al. where both achieve the predictable result of reading an identifier.

With respect to claim 28, Hilton et al teaches in Fig. 1 a printing apparatus wherein the storage medium, 43, is capable of holding a table comprising a plurality of identifier fields associated with respective status fields regarding the remaining sheet counts left in the specific ink cartridges.

With respect to claim 30, Hilton et al teaches in Fig. 1 a printing apparatus wherein the processor, 42, is capable of loading into one of said identifier fields an identifier read by the reader, 27, which does not match a previously used identifier as to updated the sheet count.

With respect to claims 33-35, Hilton et al. teaches all that is claimed in the above rejection of claim 25, but fails to teach the consumable being a supply of an image

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thermal receiving substrate, where the usage monitor comprises an end of substrate detector.

Klinefelter et al. teaches in Fig. 2 a similar printing apparatus where the consumable is a supply of an image thermal receiving substrate, where an end of substrate detector, 50, is used to detect an end of the substrate.

Because both Hilton et al. and Klinefelter et al. teach structure used for reading an identifier off a consumable, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to substitute the consumable with another where both types of consumables achieve the predictable result of forming an image on a substrate.

With respect to claims 37-39, Hilton et al. teaches all that is claimed in the above rejection of claim 36, but fails to teach the consumable being a cassette in which comprises a spool of the thermal image receiving substrate.

Klinefelter et al. teaches in Fig. 2 a similar printing apparatus where the consumable is a cassette, 14, in which comprises a spool of the thermal image receiving substrate.

Because both Hilton et al. and Klinefelter et al. teach structure used for reading an identifier off a consumable, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to substitute the consumable with another where both types of consumables achieve the predictable result of forming an image on a substrate.



***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MATTHEW G. MARINI whose telephone number is (571)272-2676. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571)-272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Matthew Marini  
4/23/09

/Judy Nguyen/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2854